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## GRAND ARMY HISTORY

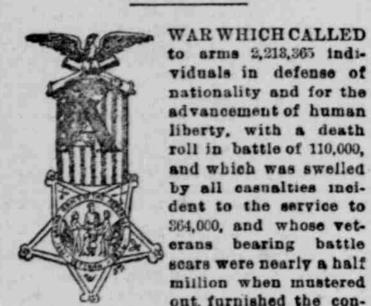
Origin and Growth of the World's Greatest Soldier Organization.

For Fourteen Years It Languished, and, Though Born in the West, Its Membership Was Chiefly in the East.

**ENORMOUS GAINS SINCE 1830** 

The Changes That Have Made It the Powerful Order It Is To-Day.

Four Hundred Thousand Men Who Wear the Bronze Button and Believe in "Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty."



to arms 2,218,365 individuals in defense of nationality and for the advancement of human liberty, with a death roll in battle of 110,000, and which was swelled by all casualties incident to the service to 364,000, and whose veterans bearing battle scars were nearly a half million when mustered out, furnished the conditions for a comradeship unknown to

times of peace. The logical result of such comradeship was organization. While the war was yet in progress several organizations of veterans were effected. As early as March, 1862, the Third Army Corps Union was formed, with General Sickles as president, while in the North Carolina Senate chamber, in April, 1865, the Society of the Army of the Tennessee was formed. The close of the war was followed by the formation of many societies, including the Army of the Cumberland, the Army of the Ohio and the Army of the James, which was subsequently merged into the Army of the Potomac. These were followed by corps, division, brigade and regimental associations in large numbers. It was soon discovered that these organizations did not meet the requirements of a comradeship scattered over a whole country. In no community could enough men of one regiment, or even of one corps, be found to constitute a special society, while in every Northern community the veterans came to represent a score of regiments and half as many States. In different States, soon after the close of the war, various societies of veterans were crganized for various purposes, but none of them was of more than local importance, and ceased to exist when a national organization, based upon broad principles and open to all honorably discharged soldiers, was presented.

Such an organization is the Grand Army of the Republic. It is probable that the Rev. W. J. Rutledge, chaplain of the Fourteenth Illinois Volunteers, was the first man to suggest the idea that the soldiera so closely allied in the comradeship of the war when mustered out would naturally desire to form an association that would preserve the friendships and the memories of their common service. danger and glory. This suggestion was made to Major Stephenson, surgeon of the same regiment, and he and the chaplain discussed it and agreed that at the close of the war they would work out some such project. The war over, the subject of a national organization of veterns formed the basis of correspondence until March, 1866, when the two above named met in Springfield, Ill., and spent some time in arranging a ritual. Major Stephenson, however, had taken the initiative in regard to the ritual some time previous. It is significant that the movement which resulted in the Grand Army of to-day should have started in that part of Illinois where Abraham Lincoln spent the years of his early manhood, and that the first conference should be held in the city in which he resided when elected President, and which is honored by the first monument in memory of that greatest of American patriots and statesmen. The first conference was held in Springfield, in which a score or more of Illinois soldiers participated. At the suggestion of Governor Ogiesby the first ritual was printed by I. W. Coltrin and Joseph Prior, the publishers of the Decatur Tribune. As the result, the first post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized at Decatur, April 6, 1866, by Major Stephenson, assisted by Captain Phelps, of the Thirty-second Illinois. The post was organized with twelve charter members, and M. F. Kanan, captain of Company A. Forty-first Illinois Volunters, was made post commander. The charter members were: I C. Pugb, George R. Steele, J. W. Routh, Joseph Prior, J. H. Nale, J. T. Bishop, G. H. Dunning, R. F. Sibley, M. F. Kanan, C. Reitsame, I. N. Coltrin and Aquilla Toland. At the next meeting a few recruits were

The first constitution, agreed upon in Springfield, May 15, 1866, provided for precinct organizations, to be known as posts; county organizations, to be known as districts; State organizations, to be known as departments, and the national organization, to be known as "The Grand Army of

Before another post was established, a department staff had been agreed upon. with Major Stephenson as department commander. This done, the department officers devoted themselves to the organization of posts. The second post was established at Springfield, Illinois. In June, after the organization of the first post in April, was held s convention of the members of the Grand Army and other soldiers, after which posts sprang up rapidly in Illinois. Another and regular meeting was held in July. It was, in fact, the first Department Encampment. Major General John M. Palmer, now Senasor Palmer, was elected department commander. The organization spread into

other States, chiefly through the efforts of Dr. Stephenson, who, after the election of General Palmer, acted as commander-in-chief and organizer in other States. The necessary funds for the prosecution of the work were furnished by various individuals. The department of Indiana supplied Major Stephenson with blank charters, rituals and regulations. In fact, in this early work of organization Indiana was scarcely behind Illinois, and for that reason should have the second or third place on the roll of departments. So rapidly did the work go on that posts were organized, in many cases, without reporting to the proper headquarters. In October, 1866, a little more than six months after the organization of the first post in Decatur, departments had been formed in Illinois,

Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesots.

if not phenix-like, the building has not risen from its ashes. Mr. Bohlen has resurrected for the purpose of publication the building in which was laid the foundations of the most remarkable organization that the country has seen and the most potent after more than a quarter of a century that the country has ever known.

WHO THEY WERE. The meeting was called to order by Commander-in-chief Stephenson, Colonel John M. Snyder was made secretary and General Jules C. Webber and Major O. M. Wilson assistant secretaries. The committee on credentials reported the number of delegates present from the States as follows:

District of Columbia, 1; Illinois, 34; Indiana, 148; Iowa, 6; Kansas, 1; Kentucky, 3; Missouri, 9; New York, 1; Ohio, 15; Pennsylvania, 3; Wisconsin, 7—total 228. The following are the names of the delegates, taken from the Indianapolis Journal of Nov. 21, 1866: Indiana - Gen. Dan Macauley, Sergt.



GEN. ULYSSES S. GRANT. and posts had been organized in Obio, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New York and

Pennsylvania. FIRST NATIONAL MEETING.

It Was Held in Indianapolis-List of Those Who Participated-What Was Done. At the meeting in Springfield above alluded to provision was made for a national organization. Very naturally, the city which was the center of the membership of the Grand Army then as well as now was selected for the honor of the first national encampment, namely, Indianapolis, and the date was November 20, 1866. In the city of Indianapolis, nearly twenty-seven years ago, was laid the foundation of the splendid national organization of the Grand Army of the Republic. State departments there were, but this meeting was as important to the growth and future power of the organization as was the Constitution which made the thirteen States a Nation.

The call was issued by order of B. F. Stephenson, "Commander-in-chief G. A. R. U. S.," and made official by J. C. Webber, Adjutant-general, Department of Illinois. The basis of representation in this call was "one representative for every post, and an additional delegate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof." If that basis of representation was in force to-day, the posts would be represented by nearly eight thousand delegates and the membership by quite as many more. All comrades are requested to wear the "blue," with corps badges.

Indianapolis, in November, 1866, was a city of less than 45,000 population, but so insignificant was the meeting of the limited Grand Army of 1866 that it attracted very little attention. Morrison's Opera Hall, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, while the battle flags of | Sergt. David Caeger, James L. Whitcomb, Indiana regiments were displayed on the | Col. H. Tripp, Lieut. L. C. Bennett, Capt.

M. E. Chandler, Chaplain Lozier, Col. J. S. McClelland, Col. C. B. Oakley, Col. C. W. Butterfield, Lieut. F. M. Thaver, Sergt. C. V. Jones, Col. M. Peden, P. Matthews, S. K. Power, Col. W. L. Vestal, Col. J. S. Bishop, Capt. J. B. Wallace, T. H. B. Mc-Cain, Capt. J. N. Aughe, Lient. Sidney Mc-Guire, Sergt. W. Bodenhamer, Harry Caldwell, Col. J. O. Martin, Col. A. D. Rose, Col. A. M. Tucker, W. McFarland, Macv Southard, Capt. L. S. Powell, Maj. Gen. R. S. Foster, Maj. O. M. Wilson, Capt. George W. Finley, Gen. Thomas J. Brady, Gen. Frank Ellets, W. H. McCasper. Gen. Geo. Steele, Cant. J. B. Fessleman, G. R. Hollowell, R. H. Buck, A. O. Behm, J. H. Dunham, Col. C. S. Thompson, Capt. J. R. Carnahan, Sergt. B. F. Magee, Sergt. Frank Dexter, J. L. Ford, Maj. E. J. Sortess, Col. John W. Wilson, Maj. H. D. Ellis, Capt. W. 3. Reyburn, John W. Smith, Maj. O. Blake, Capt. E. Hawkins, James Lucas, James Busey, Wm. R. Sherley, Wm. E. Craig, Dr. J. W. Craig, Capt. J. M. Essington, Capt. R. C. McCoy, Capt. J. T. Powell, Col. T. H. Harris, J. P. Kendall, Sergt. H. Kendall, Gen. C. S. Parish, Col. J. R. Polk. Wm. F. Henley, John Parker, Enoch Harlan, Gen. Geo. Humphrey, Walter Tilford, E. N. Clark, Amos Kersey, Maj. A. L. Foote, Lient. S. J. Thompson, J. R. Mc-Bride, Col. J. B. Dodge, Lient. S. F. Mason. Chaplain Robinson, G. R. Cook, M. E. Pierson, Col. W. H. Schlater, Capt. J. W. Smith. A. F. Davis, C. A. Gordum, S. C. Scott, T. E. Dawson, G. W. Lambert, E. W. Ross, Alonzo Harvey, Lient. G. L. Langsdale, Brouse, Capt. E. P. Howe, E. T. Blackmer, Capt. T. Forner, Robert Ewald, Maj. Wm. Patten, F. C. Crawford, Maj. J. E. Brant, W. F. Polk, Maj. Q. B. Smith, Col. A. J. Hawke, Dr. W. M. Purcell, Sergt. W. P. Wilson, R. J. Strickland, Stephen Lyon, Gen. H. D. Washburn, Capt. John Conyers, Maj. John Sim. Capt. T. W. McCoy. Capt. J. W. Jacobs, John M. Wilson, W. T. Young, Col. J. R. Fessler, Lieut. C. N. Lee, Col. L. S. Shuler, Sergt. Charles Lester, Col. C. A. Zollinger, W. W. Graves, Col. C. S. Ellis, P. Maiphu, Lieut, R. T. Larken.



GEN. PHILIP H. SHERIDAN.

Morrison's Opera Hall, the birthplace and the cradle of the Grand Army as a national organization, is now but a memory, being destroyed by fire shortly after the meeting. Were it in existence to-day, at the north west corner of Meridian and Maryland streets, it would be the Mecca to which thousands of visitors who wear the bronze button would repair. While John B. Gough was delivering a lecture the building was discovered to be on fire. Two or three cool-headed men notitled those in the audience, equally cool, to withdraw with their friends without show of baste. Mr. Gough saw his audience disappearing, but could not divine the cause until, when the audience room was nearly deserted, he was The Journal could find no picture of the building, but Mr. Oscar D. Bohlen, of D. A. Bohlen & Son, architects, found the plans of the building, which were made years ago, among his papers, so that,

stage, would have accommodated double the A. C. Cunning, Sergt. A. McGinnis, Sergt. number of delegates which came to the L. W. Waker, Maj. H. F. Perry, Capt. S. L. Butler, Sergt. D. W. Brener, L. B. Stanton, Maj, S. L. Wilson, Col. M. C. Garber, Lieut, A. C. Thorn, Maj, W. T. Jones, W. H. Fisher, Frank Doster, Maj. J. L. Wilson, Jacob Payne, John A. Child, Wesley Walker, James C. Bennett, W. M.
Morris, W. Coulson, R. B. Whitlock, J.
G. Amer, Perry Miller, J. E. Brant,
Capt. G. W. Green, H. C. Vincent, Lient,
J. V. Hadley, Capt. E. F. Hunt, Major R.
L. Letson, S. A. Child, A. C. Rawlinson, Major M. C. Shaw, Capt Hiram Darkes, John W. White. Sergt. H. Kirby. Capt. S. W. Jacobs, Gen. Frank White, Lient, Alex. C. Thomas, S. G. Bigelow, Col. C. W. Chapman, Major E. Armstrong, P. E. Farmer, Capt. E. F. Ritter, George K. Steele, H. C. Brenn, W. S. Magill, C. E. Adamson, Thomas Clark, John G. Stradley, David W. Brewer, Lieutenant Scott, Capt. J. M. S.
Smith, Lieut. W. F. Dayis, Maj. John W.
Popp, Maj. R. P. Feisner, H. H. Mathias,
George Robertson, Dr. W. Brittingham,
S. K. K. Harriman, S. D. Lyon, Richard
Clark, Col. J. B. Dodge, Lieut. Henry Wil-



Building in Which the First G. A. R. En campment Was Held,

lets, Capt. W. B. Givens, A. E. Pierce, Gen. Jasper Packard, William P. Polk, George Teter, Sergt. S. Hammersmith, Maj. J. B.

Mulky.

Illinois—Gen. R. M. Pierson, Gen. F. S. Mosher. Maj. E. S. Johnson, Lieut. H. Wells, Capt. A. Uhlman, Gen. M. R. M. Wallace, Capt. William Parker, Col. W. B. McCord, Capt. George Hunt, Capt. J. D. Estes, Capt. J. M. Thompson, Edward Hitchcock, Capt. H. S. Clark, Capt. A. M. Lee, Capt. T. M. Hill, Capt. J. H. Hall, Capt. T. B. Sellers, Mahlon Votaro, Surgeon J. R. Little, Capt. W. D. E. Andrus, Gen. A. L. Chettom, Maj. B. F. Stephenson, Gen. John M. Palmer, Gen. J. C. Weber, Col. J. M. Snyder, Col. D. Gross, Dr. W. E. Turner, Gen. J. O. Osborne, John S. Pheips, Gen. S. A. Huribert, Capt. J. G. Evans. G. W. Gano, Will E. Turner, Acjt. L. R. Lucas.

Missouri-Gen. John McNiel, Gen. Chester Harding, Col. J. S. Cavender, Col. John McFall, Col. F. B. Legerberger, Capt. Lawrence Bruce, Capt. J. M. Bond, Capt. John Ohio-Gen. B. F. Potts. G. F. Laurel, Philip Weim, Gen. Thomas Taylor, S. D. Porter. E. S. Woodlawn. G. F. Thomas.

Capt. Henry Darnbush, Col. E. F. Snyder, Gen. August Willich, Lieut. W. H. McCoy, Major N. D. Badger, Lieut. Hugh McQuiston, Col. B. F. Hawkes, Capt. A. L. Green, Lient. S. D. Porter. lowa-Gen, Wm. Vandever, Capt. A. P. Alexander, Lieut. W. A. Ryan, Capt. S. D. Wisconsin-Gen. J. K. Proudfit, Capt.

C. G. Mayers, Richard Lester, H. G. Rogers, Capt. Thomas A. Gwynne. Pennsylvania-Col. John G. Kelley, Col. Clayton McMichael, Major R. G. Fetters. Kentucky-Col. Thomas B. Farleigh, Col. H. K. Medriand, Col. H. Burge. Kansas-Major T. J. Anderson. New York-Col. J. B. McKean.

District of Columbia-L. Edwin Dudley. WHAT THE ENCAMPMENT DID.

Such are the names of the men who assembled in Indianapolis to put the newborn veteran organization upon a national basis, twenty-seven years ago. Location gave Indiana a large part of its preponderance-a two-thirds vote - but it is evident that in the very beginning Indiana contained a greater membership than any other State except, perhaps, Illinois. Thus it may be claimed that the Grand Army of the Republic, as an organizacion, was born in this city twenty-seven years ago. True, there were a number of posts in different States, and State organizations in a more or less chaotio



condition. Moreover, there were in several states organizations of a similar nature. But they lacked the power of cohesion and constructive organization. By the convention of soldiers in this city, all the souttering posts and defective State organizations under a half dozen names, were fused into one national organization, the Grand Army of the Republic. No one can tell its membesship at that time, but since that time it has borne upon its muster rolls, since its organization, not less than 600,000 men who had stood in the ranks which saved the

At the outset a large proportion of those who took a part in the movement were officers, as the foregoing list of names shows. This fact is easily accounted for. The mass of men who had been in the war had had enough of soldiering. They had submitted to the discipline of the camp; they had stood on the gilt-edged hell of battle; now they wanted to enjoy the novelty of being their own men. Then, the most of them had to find places in which to earn bread, and with thousands the struggle has lasted until to-day. Furthermore, there was a good deal of marrying to do. Some of it had been postponed by the war and some was hastened by its close. The war was then so near that most men did not care to talk about it, and it was only as the years passed and a widening vision enabled the veterans to realize the magnitude of the work they had schieved, that they came to take a pride in the fact of having been volunteer soldiers. As the years passed a comradeship which seemed of little consequence when they threw down their arms and sought the old homes waxed precious as a memory, and yet more precious as the years glided noiselessly by. Gen. John M. Palmer, of Illinois, now

United States Senator, was chosen president of the convention, and a vice president was chosen from each State. L. Edwin Dudley was made secretary, and Rev. John H. Lozier, of Indiana, chaplain. Committees were appointed on constitution, ritual and other branches of the proposed organization. Among other things, representation in the National Encampment was fixed on the basis of one representative at large for each state and an additional one for each one thousand members. It was also voted that department commanders and senior officio members of the National Encampment. The resolutions adopted could be published to-day as a declaration of the purpose of the organization and epitomized in the words, "Fraternity, Charity

and Loyalty." The first day's business session closed with the appointment of a committee to invite Gov. O. P. Morton to address the convention in the evening, which he did. He was introduced by General Palmer, the audience rising on the announcement and giving three cheers. In the course of his address Governor Morton said:

"We can never understand what we owe to the army that saved the government. Had it not been for that army the rebellion would have succeeded, the Southern Confederacy would have been established, and | ington. to-day we might have had not only a Northwestern confederacy but a Pacific

soon drifted into anarchy and from thence soon drifted into anarchy and from thence to monarchy. The war is over, the members of the loyal army returned home to falsify the predictions of their enemies. From being good soldiers, they became the best of citizens.

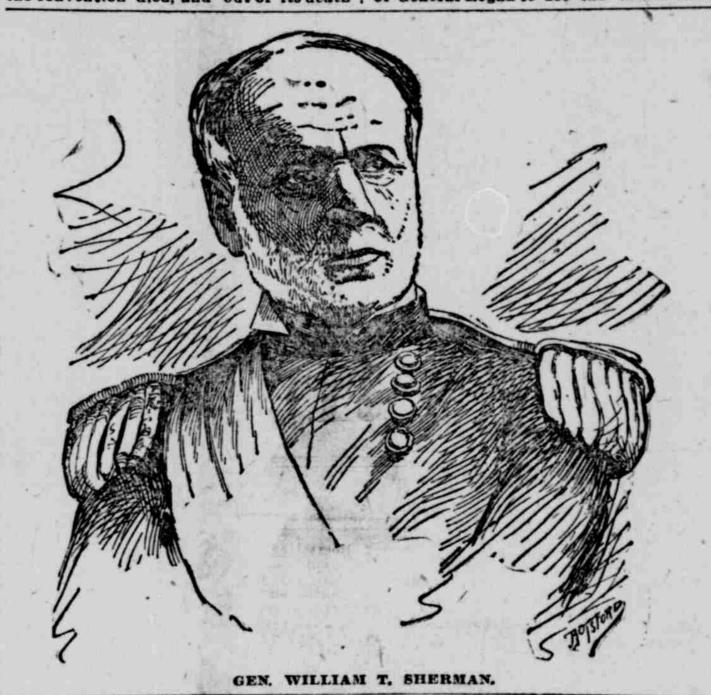
The gratitude of the government is due to the men who saved it, and that gratitude will grow stronger as years increase. The Republic will take care of those to whom it owes its existence."

General Palmer feelingly replied to the remarks of Governor Morton, paying a high tribute to the war Governors who did so

remarks of Governor Morton, paying a high tribute to the war Governors who did so much to sustain the Lincoln administration and the men in the field. Without detracting from the high service of any of them, it could be said that Governor Morton, by his rare courage and indefatigable efforts in the face of the most powerful opposition, stood at their head.

Toward the close of the second day's session the constitution and the resolutions setting forth the principles and purposes of the organization were adopted. Then the convention died, and out of its death of General Logan to use the Grand Army

itself was the institution of "Memorial day." Adjutant-general Chipman has said that suggestion was made by a private soldier, in Cincinnati, who was a native of Germany. Soldiers' graves were, however, decorated in Waterloo, N. Y., in May, 1866, and upon the suggestion of T. C. Campbell, or Cincinnati, afterwards quartermastergeneral, the posts of that city decorated the graves of their comrades in 1867. Beyond question general order, No. 11, dated May 5, 1868, is the most important ever issued to the veterans of the country. It is redolent with the intense patriotism of John A. Logan. "If other eyes grow dull, and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust," he says, "ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us." Many feared that it was a mistake, but those who know the Grand Army know that no one thing has contributed so much to build up and that suggestion was made by a private soihas contributed so much to build up and keep alive small posts as the observance of



was born the Grand Army of the Republic, when the following officers were chosen: Commander-in-chief 8. A. Hurlbut, of Illinois; senior vice commander-in-chief J. B. McKean, of New York; junior vice commander-in-chief R. S. Foster, of Indiana; adjutant-general B. F. Stephenson, of Illinois; quartermaster-general August Willich, of Ohio; surgeon-general D. C. McNeil, of Iowa: chaplain, W. A. Pile, of Missouri; conneil of administration-J. Proudfit, of Wisconsin; William Vaudever, of Iowa; T. O. Osbern, of Illinois; T. C. Fletcher, of Missourt; T. T. Taylor, of Ohio; H. K. Milward, of Kentucky; F. T. Bramball, of New York; Nathan Kimball, of Indiana; Clayton McMichael, of Penn-

sylvania. .

FROM 1866 TO 1892.

Fourteen Years of slow Growth, Followed by Vast Accessions of Membership. Headquarters were retained at Springfield. Ill., under Adjutant-general Stephenson. Commander-in-chief Hurlbut could not give personal attention to the affairs of the order, consequently, at a critical period in the existence of the new organization, it did not bave the direction it required for its success. The second meeting of the National Encampment was held in Philadelphia, Jan. 15, 1868. Twenty-one departments were represented by 185 representatives. The representation showed that the strength of the organization was in the central States of the West, Ohio having 34, Indiana 22, Illinois 36, or within three votes of a majority of the delegation. It seems that the committee on credentials reported the names of the delegates with the titles attained in the service. The report was referred back to the committee with instructions to drop military titles, as it was an organization of comrades. There is nothing in the reports to show the membership, but the financial reports showed a lamentable con-

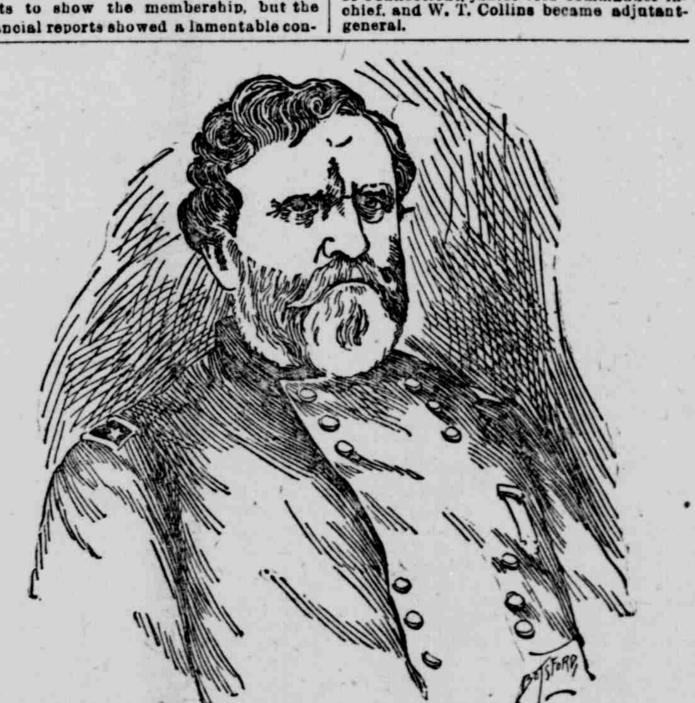
to promote his political aims, but those who read his addresses and orders will find that he was strenuously opposed to partisan action by posts.

THIRD ENCAMPMENT. The third annual meeting of the National Encampment was held in Cincinnati, May 12, 1869. In his address Commander-inchief Logan said: "Politically, our object is not to mingle in the strife of parties, but

with others." The adjutant-general, in his report, made no estimate of the membership, but stated that there were 2,500 posts in thirty-seven departments. There were but sixty-five delegates present, and Indiana and Illinois, where the organization had its inception, were reported as not entitled to representation, but subsequently Illinois was admitted with eight delegates and Indiana with three. The finanes of the National Encampment were yet

in a deplorable cordition, and the national

organization must have collapsed in hopeless and helpless insolvency, had not comrade J. T. Owen, of Philadelphia, advanced over \$1,000 to meet previous indebtedness. This encampment made the fatal mistake of adopting a system of degrees in membership like other secret societies, namely: the grade of the recruit, the grade of the soldier and the grade of the veteran. While there are those who yet believe that grades based upon length of service might have strengthened the order, it is now known that the "three-degree" scheme, instead of relieving the order of depression consequent upon the reaction from hasty and partial organization, hastened the work of disintegration. It is claimed that previous to the adoption of the three-grade system, 240,000 veterans were enrolled in the Grand Army, but it contained less than 25,000 when, two years later, it was abolished. mander-in-chief; Governor Fairchild, of Wisconsin, senior vice, and General Hawley, of Connecticut, junior vice commander-in-



GEN, GEORGE H, THOMAS.

dition of affairs, namely: receipts, \$352; disbursements. \$1,687. Few of the departments had paid their dues, and Louisiana. one of the smallest, paid \$180, while Ohio and junior vice commanders should be ex | paid \$20, and the other two States having the largest number of delegates did not contribute a cent. A spirited discussion arose over the prop-

osition to so smend the declaration of principles that the organization "shall not make nominations for office or use its influence, as a secret organization, for partisan purposes." The amendment was adopted, and stands to-day as the honorably observed principle of the Grand Army. Complaint was made in the resolutions that the veterans were generally ignored by those having appointments to make. The following officers were elected: Commander-in-chief, John A. Logan; senior vice commander, J. T. Owen, of Pennsylvania; junior vice commander, Joseph R. Hawley, of Connecticutadjutant-general, N. P. Chipman, of Wash;

The act which will cause the first year of the administration of General Logan to be

The National Encampment next met in Washington, May 11, 1870. Nineteen departments, with only fifty-two delegates, were represented. In his address, Commander-in-chief Logan took occasion to correct current misconceptions regarding the mission of the Grand Army, beginning as follows:

FOURTH AND FIFTH ENCAMPMENTS.

"The Grand Army of the Republic is not a political organization designed to serve the ends of any political party. " " have but three objects obligatory upon us as members of this order, namely: To promote the love and practice of fraternity. liberal distributions of charity, and unequivocal loyalty."

Speaking of the future of the Grand Army, the organization being then in a depressed condidition, General Logan, with that fervid patriotism which was his distinguishing feature, said:

The officers were the same as the year pre-vious, except that Louis Wagner, of Penn-sylvania, was elected junior vice command-er-in-chief, instead of General Hawley.

The Fifth Annual Encampment was held in Boston, May 10, 1871, General Logan presiding. Seventeen departments were repre-sented by sixty-eight delegates. At the second encampment the three States of In-diana, Illinois and Ohio furnished near-ly half the representatives, but in this, the fifth meeting, Indiana had no representation, and the other two States but two each, But, if the representation was small and the membership reduced, the quartermaster-general showed that, financially, the encampment was even with the world except a small balance due Comrade Owen, who saved it from bankruptcy three years be-fore by loans. It was to this encampment that the National Peace Convention telegraphed:

constant exercise of the virtues we profess

create an influence second only to the

We congratulate you on a peaceful encamp-ment. As veterans, can you not add your pro-test against war, that there may never be another war encampment! In response the boys sent this character-

istic response: Your congratulations reciprocated. The Grand Army of the Republic is determined to have peace even if it has to fight for it. Among the resolutions adopted was the following:

Resolved, That the Grand Army of the Repub-lie is in no sense whatever a political organization, and any comrade who endeavors to use the order as a political engine for the purpose of gratifying any selfish political ambition, is recreant to his duty to his comrades.

This was the first year that a return of the membership was made. It shows that on Dec. 31, 1871, the number of members was 30,124, of which Massachusetts had 11,208 and Indiana and Illinois none.

The following officers were elected: Commander-in-chief, Gen. A. E. Burnside eenior vice commander-in-chief, Louis Wagner; junior vice commander-in-chief, James Coey, of California.

Headquarters were established in New York city, with William Cushing as adjutant-general. During the year which followed comrades were called upon to extend assistance to comrades who suffered by the Chicago fire.

SIXTH, SEVENTH AND EIGHTH MEETINGS, The Sixth National Encampment was held in Cleveland, O., May 8, 1872. Sixteen departments were represented by seventyfive delegates and ex-officers. As all the staff of Commander-in-chief Burnside served without salaries, Quartermaster Attwood, of Boston, was able to report a net cash and property balance of \$3,078,55. By resolution, the attention of the Secretary of War- was called to an army quartermaster in Texas who refused to employ Union veterans, but did employ ex-confederates. Action was taken to call the attention of Congress to the necessity of establishing homes for disabled veterans and for an increase of pensions for those permanently disabled. The same officers were re-elected, except that J. Warren Keifer, subsequently Speaker of the national House, was made junior vice commander-in-chief. The membership at the close of the year 1872 was 28,663.

by our strength and numbers to be able to exact from all a recognition of our rights departments were represented by fortyeight delegates. At this date the Grand Army was essentially an Eastern organization. Indiana and Illinois were reported as departments disorganized and dormant. Still, the finances of the cheampment showed a large balance on the credit side The following officers were elected: Charles Devens, jr., of Massachusetts, commander-in-chief. John R. Goble, of New Jersey, senior vice, and Edward Ferguson, of Wisconsin, junior vice. The membership at the close of 1873 was 29,851, The eighth session of the National Encampment was held in Harrisburg. Pa., May 13, 1874, Commander-in-chief Devens presiding. Fifteen departments were repsesented by fifty-one representatives Quartermaster-general Sprague reporte \$4,117 as net assets. During this session past department commanders were made repre-

The seventh annual session was held in

sentatives in the National Encampment ac long as they remain in good standing in their posts. General Devens was re-elected commander-in-chief, Edward Jardine, o New York, senior vice, and George T. Gould of Illinois, junior vice. The membership at the close of the year 1874 was 28,323-8 loss 1,570 from 1873. At this time it was predicted that the Grand Army was slowly falling into decay. NINTH, TENTH AND ELEVENTH SESSIONS.

This time the session was held in Chicago. Only fourteen departments were represented, but they had seventy-eight representatives. The following officers were elected: Commander-in-chief, John F. Hartranft. of Pennsylvania; senior vice, J. S. Reynolds, of Illinois; junior vice, Charles J. Buckbee.

A name then appeared among the minor officers that is now as well known in national encampments as that of most any man in the order-Rev. Myron W. Reed, Wisconsin, as chaplain. The members of the encampment witnessed a review of the Illinois militia, and a public reception was

held in the Exposition Building. The mem-bership at the close of 1875 was 27,996. The tenth annual meeting of the National Encampment was held in Philadelphia, June 30, 1876, while the Centennial fair was filling the city with people. Twentytwo departments were represented by 110 department officers and representatives. Still the Grand Army continued in the control of the Eastern States, which were represented by eighty-one of the one hundred delegates. Massachusetts distanced all other States in membership, having nearly one-third of the total. Ohio was reduced to 473 members; Illinois to 1,074, and Indiana was not in it, though it was reported that posts had been formed during the year in the State. At this time the Grand Army undertook to secure a list of soldiers dis abled in the service, but, in its scattered condition, the work could not be completed. The officers of the previous year were re-elected for the most part. There was a parade of nearly all the posts in the Department of Pennsylvania and of a few posts of other States. At the close of the year 1876 the aggregate membership was 26,899-a loss of over one thousand during the year. This was the low tide with the Grand Army. The turning was slow but

June 26, 1877, the eleventh annual session was held in Providence, R. I. Only twelve departments were represented by ninetynipety-six delegates were from Eastern departments. This was the first appear-Ance of the eloquent and enthusiastic Lovering of Massachusetts, as chaplain-inchief. In his address he announced the

"soldierly creed" as follows: "I believe in a fraternity which joins in indissoluble union, justice and right. believe in a charity that, while merciful to a conquered foe, does not stultify itself by surrendering the points of victors; that never forgets the brightness of that cause which has been made illustrious by the heoric sacrifices of those whose graves should be the shrines of the Nation's revorence; I believe in loyalty that acknowledges one country and one flag; that makes American citizenship honorable every-where, that calls rebellion a crime and the penalty of treason death; I believe that in shoulder to shoulder, willing at all hazard of favor or fame to defend the Grand Army of the Republic as the

standard-bearer of the Nation's loyalty." General Grant was in England at that time, and comrade Tanner, recalling that he was to dine with the Queen, moved that a dispatch be cabled him conveying the "It should be the aim of the Grand Army hearty greetings of his comrades, The to bring within its fold every honorably resolution was unanimously carried, but